



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

OPERATORS OF SAN FRANCISCO BROTHEL CHARGED WITH IMMIGRATION AND MONEY LAUNDERING VIOLATIONS

Two women named in 74-count indictment as part of Operation Gilded Cage

SAN FRANCISCO – Two women face a battery of federal charges today, including alien harboring and money laundering, for their role in operating a Bay Area massage parlor that allegedly served as a front for prostitution.

Yon Suk Pang, 56, of San Francisco and Hyon Chu Yim, 45, of San Leandro, are accused in a federal indictment unsealed yesterday of operating a business called Suk Hee Oriental Massage in San Francisco. The allegations stem from Operation Gilded Cage, a multi-agency investigation involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the San Francisco Police Department, the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, and the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service.

According to the indictment, from January 2003 to June 2005, the women conspired to operate Suk Hee where they employed alien women to work as prostitutes. As part of the conspiracy, Pang allegedly paid brokers to deliver her female aliens, then held the women's passports until the women repaid their debts. The indictment further alleges that the defendants housed the women in an adjacent unit, accessed by climbing through a window, and collected payment from the women for that housing.

This is the first indictment in Operation Gilded Cage since the execution of numerous arrest and search warrants in June 2005. Yon Suk Pang was previously indicted in June 2005. This indictment adds Yim as a defendant, and includes numerous new charges against both suspects. The investigation is ongoing.

The charges against the women are as follows:

- Counts 1 - 8 (Alien Harboring for Prostitution). These counts include an alien harboring conspiracy and seven substantive counts of harboring for the purpose of prostitution.
- Counts 9 - 16 (Alien Harboring for Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain). These counts encompass a conspiracy and seven substantive counts.
- Counts 17 - 74 (Money Laundering). These counts include a conspiracy to launder monetary instruments and substantive money laundering counts totaling approximately \$171,513.

- Forfeiture Allegations. The indictment seeks forfeiture of property related to these crimes, including \$86,046 previously seized on June 30, 2005.

Yim was arrested at her home Wednesday in San Leandro and made her initial appearance in federal court in San Francisco yesterday. She was released on a \$300,000 bond with electronic monitoring. Pang is free on \$300,000 bond. Both defendants appeared this morning before Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James in San Francisco.

The maximum statutory penalties for these charges are as follows:

- Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371 (conspiracy): 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release, \$100 special assessment.
- Counts 2-8: 8 U.S.C. § 1328 (harboring for prostitution): 10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release, \$100 special assessment.
- Count 9: 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I) (harboring conspiracy): 10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release, \$100 special assessment.
- Counts 10-16: 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i) (alien harboring for gain): 10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release, \$100 special assessment.
- Count 17: 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) (money laundering conspiracy): 20 years, \$500,000 fine, 5 years supervised release, \$100 special assessment.
- Counts 18-74: 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A)(i): 20 years, \$500,000 fine, 5 years supervised release, \$100 special assessment.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.